



CONNECTICUT AFL-CIO

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Testimony of Lori Pelletier
Secretary-Treasurer
Connecticut AFL-CIO
Energy and Technology Committee
Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Good afternoon Senator Fonfara and Representative Nardello and members of the Energy and Technology committee. My name is Lori Pelletier and I serve as the Secretary -Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO, and I am here to testify on behalf of our 900 affiliated local unions who represent over 200,000 union members from all 169 cities and towns.

S.B. No. 23 AN ACT ENHANCING EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE and
H.B. No. 5544 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING STORM PREPARATION AND EMERGENCY
RESPONSE.

We appreciate all the work that has gone into these two bills. We just want to underscore the importance of staffing levels and as they decrease the risk for widespread outages increases. We are concerned with the failure of the utilities to keep current on maintenance of both equipment and structures. We have all seen the disturbing pictures of poles which should have been repaired but weren't and how they ended up causing problems for our crews who were trying to get the power back on.

We are encouraged by the work of the governor's task force and the audit of the utilities' response on moving good consumer friendly, worker friendly legislation forward.

H.B. No. 5542 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER PROTECTION FOR UTILITY
CUSTOMERS.

We support this legislation. Clearly the utility companies failed in their response to the recent storms. This legislation puts in reasonable remedies for consumers, places limits on executive compensation and provides for rate relief for customers.

S.B. No. 447 (RAISED) AN ACT MODERNIZING THE STATE'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS
LAWS. We oppose this legislation. The title of this bill leads us to believe that this is about our laws, but in reality it's about a power grab for the telecommunications companies. This work to "modernize" our laws should be done collaboratively with stakeholders at the table not just industry people who are looking to get an upper hand.

We appreciate the committee's work on these bills and for holding this public hearing and if you have any questions I would be happy to answer them at this time.

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